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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,978	03/31/2004	Amy Delphine Travis	IBM-013	8690
51835	7590	04/10/2007	EXAMINER	
IBM LOTUS & RATIONAL SW c/o GUERIN & RODRIGUEZ 5 MOUNT ROYAL AVENUE MOUNT ROYAL OFFICE PARK MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752			HASSAN, RASHEDUL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	04/10/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/814,978	TRAVIS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Rashedul Hassan	2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "20" has been used to designate both "viewer display" in Fig. 1 and "sharer display" in Fig. 9A-9C. Reference character "20" in Fig. 9A-9C should be modified to show reference character "16". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Paragraph [00036] recites "step 110 of Fig. 6" which needs to be corrected to recite "step 110 of Fig. 7". Furthermore, paragraph [00037] recites "sharer display 20" which needs to be corrected to recite "sharer display 16" to be consistent with the reference character used in Fig. 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 17-26 and 28-30 are rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 17-20 are directed to a computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having embodied therein program code for carrying out the methods of the instant invention. In light of the specification ([0008]) and claims 21-24, a person of ordinary skill in the art can reasonably interpret in the broadest reasonable interpretation that the applicant intends to include carrier wave as the recited computer useable medium. Since "carrier wave" is currently considered to be non-statutory subject matter, the above claims have been rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter under the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 101. The applicant is advised to use the phrase "computer storage medium" in order to overcome this rejection.

Claims 21-24 are directed to a computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for use with a computer system. Since both "signal" and "carrier wave" are currently considered to be non-statutory subject matter, the above claims have been rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter under the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 25,26 and 28-30 are intended to be directed to a computing system. However, as claimed, only a "sharer processor", a "shared data generator" and a "viewer processor" are recited to be the components of the system. Since a person of ordinary skill in the art can reasonably interpret these components (processors), in the broadest reasonable interpretation, to be nothing more than program modules or functional descriptive materials without any explicit combination with an appropriate computer useable physical medium, the above claims have been rejected for being directed to non-statutory subject matter under the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Beard et al. (US 5,867,156) hereinafter Beard.

For claims 1, 17, 21, 25-27 Beard teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding apparatus for sharing a portion of a sharer display with a viewer display, the method comprising:

determining a sharing area defining a portion of the sharer display to be shown on the viewer display (wavy lines 65 in Fig. 7A, dots 44 in Fig. 7B), the

sharing area being responsive to a display allocation for the viewer display (the sharing area which is the portion of the display in host viewport 42 that gets displayed in the guest viewport 43, depends on the display allocation of the guest viewport 43, thus rendering the sharing area to be "responsive" to a display allocation for the viewer display, see discussion of Fig. 1 in prior art section and also column 4 lines 49-63) and a position of a cursor (shared host cursor 71 in Fig. 7A-7B) in the sharer display (since guest viewport 43 tracks the shared host cursor 71); and

showing the portion of the sharer display on the viewer display (Fig. 7A-7B and Fig. 8, column 7 line 50 – column 8 line 62).

For claims 2, 18, 22 and 28 Beard further teaches detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display ; moving the sharing area to define a different portion of the sharer display in response to the new position of the cursor; and showing the different portion of the sharer display on the viewer display (Fig. 7A-7B, column 7 line 50 – column 8 line 62).

For claim 4, Beard further teaches the moving of the sharing area comprises moving the sharing area to define a different portion of the sharer display if the new position of the cursor in the sharer display is outside the sharing area (column 8 lines 56-62).

For claim 5, Beard further teaches the determination of a sharing area comprises determining a common area for a plurality of display allocations (since a common area surrounding the shared host cursor 71 is shared between multiple guests).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of Ellis et al. (US 2003/0210281 A1) hereinafter Ellis.

For claims 3, Beard does not teach that the detecting comprises detecting an average position of the cursor in the sharer display during a predetermined time interval. However, Ellis teaches a method of magnifying thumbnail pictures as the cursor is swept over the thumbnails using average position of the cursor during a predetermined time interval ([0055]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Ellis with that of Beard to arrive at the instant invention. The motivation for such combination would have been to avoid visually disturbing sight due to frequent adjustment on the guest viewport display caused by rapid mouse movement ([0055]).

Claims 6, 7, 10, 12-16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of Salesky et al. (US 6,343,313 B1) hereinafter Salesky.

For claims 6, 19, 23 and 29, Beard does not teach showing a sharing frame on the sharer display, the sharing frame indicating the perimeter of the portion of the sharer display showing on the viewer display. However, Salesky teaches showing a sharing frame on the sharer display, the sharing frame indicating the perimeter of the portion of the sharer display showing on the viewer display (53 in Fig. 6B). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Beard with that of Salesky to arrive at the present invention. The motivation for such combination would have been to indicate to the sharer the portion of his/her shared display that is currently viewable to the guest display in order to perform the capture or compare only the blocks currently displayed in the viewer display (Salesky, column 16 lines 38-46).

For claim 7, Salesky further teaches that the sharing frame has a rectangular shape (53 in Fig. 6B).

For claims 10, 12, 20, 24 and 30, Beard teaches detecting a new position of the cursor in the sharer display (see discussion of Fig., 7A-7B regarding automatic cursor

tracking. Fig. 7A shows the initial position of the host cursor 71 positioned on the wavy lines 65 in host viewport 42 and the guest cursor 72 also positioned to be in synch with the host cursor 71 and positioned on the wavy lines 65 in guest viewport 43. Guest viewport 43 showing the wavy lines portion 65 of the output where the host cursor 71 is positioned. When the host cursor 71 is moved to a new position on the dots 44 outside the current sharing area as shown in Fig. 7B, this new position is detected in order to automatically scroll the guest viewport to display the new portion of the output and position the guest cursor 72 on this new position). However, Beard does not teach showing the sharing frame. But, it has already been pointed out in the rejection for claim 6 that Salesky teaches showing a sharing frame indicating the perimeter of the portion of the sharer display showing on the viewer display and the motivation for combining the teachings of Beard and Salesky. Therefore, it follows that the combined invention teaches showing the sharing frame at a new position in the sharer display in response to the new position of the cursor (since when the guest cursor 72 is moved to the new position on the dots 44 in the viewer viewport, the sharing frame in the host viewport 42 will need to be moved on to the dots 44 portion of the sharing display in order to indicate the perimeter of the portion of the sharer display showing on the viewer display).

For claim 13, Beard and Salesky do not teach that the determination of a sharing area comprises determining a largest common dimension for a plurality of display allocations. However, determining a sharing area based on the largest common dimension for a plurality of display allocation was a well known and frequently used

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technique at the time of the invention as evidenced from the "Description of the Related Art" section (Beard, column 2 lines 25-30). Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine this well known technique with the combined teachings of Beard and Salesky to arrive at the instant invention. The motivation for such combination would have been to display only one common attendee window (53 as shown in Fig. 6B, Salesky) in host viewport (42 in Fig. 7B, Beard) and hence simplify the method of synchronization between the host viewport and the guest viewport with minimal clutter.

For claims 14-16, Beard does not teach polling a viewing computer to acquire the display allocation for determining an updated sharing area. However, Salesky teaches that in the event of resizing the attendee window 52 causing a change in the viewer display allocation, the bounds of what is being shown at the attendee client can be communicated to the presenter client in order to process only that portion of the presenter display currently shown in the attendee window (column 6 lines 16-46). Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Beard with that of Salesky to poll a viewing computer periodically for display allocation information in order to determine an updated sharing area. The motivation for such combination would have been to process only that much of the host viewport currently displayed on the guest viewport (Salesky, column 16 lines 33-37).

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of Salesky, and further in view of Rosenholtz (US 7,130,461 B2).

For claims 8 and 9, Beard and Salesky do not teach that the color of the sharing frame is selected to contrast with a background color of the sharer display or with a feature in the sharer display. However, Rosenholtz teaches this missing limitation (see Fig. 1 and related discussion in column 4 line 54 – column 5 line 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Rosenholtz with the combined teachings of Beard and Salesky to arrive at the instant invention. The motivation for such combination would have been to facilitate drawing user's attention (Rosenholtz, column 4 line 63-65).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beard in view of Salesky, and further in view of Ellis.

For claim 11, Beard and Salesky do not teach that the detecting comprises detecting an average position of the cursor in the sharer display during a predetermined time interval. However, It has already been pointed out in the rejection of claim 3 that Ellis teaches this limitation and the motivation for the combination in order to arrive at the present invention has also been discussed above.

Conclusion

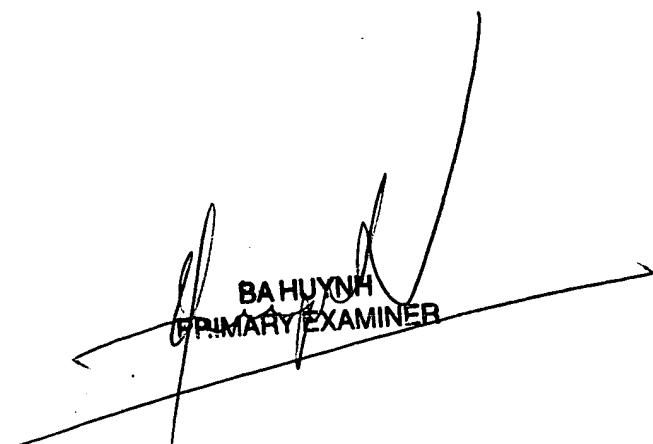
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rashedul Hassan whose telephone number is 571-272-9481. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM-4PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



(Rashedul Hassan)



BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER